

conference report showed \$32.27 balance; after which \$8.00 was voted to me for direct outlay in the work. This reduced the actual balance to \$24.27, so you see we are actually in debt to National Mission Board above what we have to pay. We are, however, able to pay that now through a contribution from McKee and one from the Johnstown church, *first money*.

Let me appeal again for early collections. Our debts are accruing and the work must not stop. We have arranged to hold Brother Smouse in the Morrellville district at an actual expense to Mission Board of \$17.00 per month, and want to continue the pastorate at McVeytown at as low a cost as possible, if we find upon canvass by State Evangelist that it is prudent to do so. All this costs money and we hope to get it to pay the work, but both of these contracts *must be conditioned* upon the means to pay. Fraternally,

R. Z. REPLOGLE, Sec'y.

#### MISSION FIELDS AND MISSION BOARDS.

New York is approaching the centenary of organized missionary work in America.

Fifteen German missionary societies are actively engaged in spreading the gospel.

There are over one thousand schools for natives in China under foreign instruction.

A whole town of five hundred inhabitants near Foochow has adopted Christianity.

In India there are about 300,000 Protestant communicants and over 1,000,000 adherents.

It is proposed to hold in 1900 a great ecumenical missionary conference in New York City.

Only about 40,000 of Japan's 40,000,000 people are Protestants—that is, one to every thousand of the natives.

The Methodist Missionary Board has made it a rule that a missionary must acquire within two years the language of the people to whom he is sent or be recalled home.

Dr. Griffith John, of the London Missionary Society, has secured ground for a mission house in Hunan—the first to be granted to any Protestant missionary society in that Chinese province.

#### WHAT SIX SOCIETIES ARE DOING.

The London Missionary Society reports 96,000 communicants and \$733,000 expended.

The American Presbyterian Board (North) reports 32,000 communicants and \$865,000 expended.

The Church Missionary Society of Eng-

land reports 56,000 communicants and \$1,309,000 expended.

The American Baptist Missionary Union reports 190,998 communicants and \$568,000 expended.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions reports 44,000 communicants and \$716,000 expended.

The American Methodist Episcopal Board reports 134,020 communicants (including probationers) and \$1,009,000 expended.

#### CHINA.

"If China had the same number of ordained Christian ministers in proportion to population as are in the United States, there would be 540,000. The actual number is 850, or less than one to every 600 in this country."

#### KOREA.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, uses these words: "Of all the fields now open to missionary effort, Korea seems to stand first in the matter of blessed opportunity. The recent war has only served the better to prepare the Koreans for the hearing of the gospel."

### Our Bible School.

#### PRAYER MEETING TOPICS.

##### PSALM XIX.

Subject:—"God in Nature."

V. 1. How do the heavens declare God's glory? Note the ordered harmony of the physical universe.

V. 2. We have learned to look with indifference upon the great mysteries of nature.

V. 3. All men can read nature, no matter what their language. Six things of nature shows God's glory: 1. The heavens (i. e. in day time.) 2. The firmament (i. e. the heavens at night) 3. Nature as seen by day (i. e. flowers, beasts and birds, etc.) 4. Nature as seen at night (i. e. shining, law-obeying planets, animals of the night and plant processes at night.) 5. The laws of nature. 6. The sun, (about which we think so little.)

V. 6. The prevalence of the sun's influence illustrates the pervasiveness of God's moral laws.

Vs. 7-11. Note what the law of the Lord does: 1. Converts the soul. 2. Makes wise the simple. 3. Rejoices the heart. 4. Enlightens the eyes (i. e. makes us see things in a new light.) 5. Endures forever. 6. True. 7. Righteous. 8. More desirable than gold. 9.

Sweeter than honey. 10. Warns God's servants. 11. Brings great rewards to the keepers thereof.

Vs. 12-14. David's prayer: 1. To be cleansed from secret faults. 2. To be kept back from presumptuous sins. 3. To have the words of his mouth and his secret thoughts acceptable to God. Would that be a good prayer for us? Memorize verse 14.

#### HINTS ON BIBLE STUDY.

(Gathered from various sources)

1. *Learn at least one verse of Scripture every day.* Verses from memory will be wonderfully useful in your daily life and work. See Josh i:8; Psalms cxix:11.

2. Do not be satisfied with simply reading a chapter, but *study the meaning* of at least one verse every day.

3. Read and study the Bible *socially*. This is done in Teachers' meetings, Bible Classes, Bible Societies, etc. Each one's views are sure to be somewhat corrected, supplemented and stimulated by the views, arguments and suggestions of others.

4. Set apart at least *fifteen minutes each day for studying it*; this little will be grand in results, and never be regretted.

5. When you read your Bible, be sure you *hunt for something*. Read the same chapter over and over again, till you understand it.—D. L. M.

6. Make yourself thoroughly *familiar with Paul's Epistles*. They are the *key to all the Holy Scriptures*.—D. L. M.

7. *Look into the deeper meanings*, as astronomers search into the depths of the skies. New stars may be found in the most studied chapters.

8. *Take the plain and simple meaning* of a passage. Ingenious interpretations are usually dangerous.—L. A.

9. *Allow for yourself*, your prejudices, etc. The Calvinist reads Philippians ii:12, 13, with all the emphasis on verse 13, while the Arminian accents verse 12, and reads verse 13 very lightly.—L. A.

10. Get at *best translation*. (1) By studying it in "the original" if possible. (2.) By comparing the received translations with the new translations that are appearing. (3.) By comparisons also with French and German Bibles, especially, "Luther's Bible." (4.) By examining modern commentaries, through which those who are without scholastic training can get at the true rendering.—L. A.

11. Study as to ascertain *the whole truth* contained in a single incident or miracle; when and why written, how it applies to yourself, and how to use it for others.—L. A.

12. Have *Cruden's Concordance* and a *Bible Text-Book* at hand; also in all cases refer to parallel passages and marginal